



BURLINGTON

Middlesex County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Burlington was formed in 1799 and is sited on the watersheds of the Ipswich, Mystic and Shawsheen Rivers. It is now a suburban industrial town at the junction of the Boston-Merrimac corridor but for most of its history it was almost entirely agricultural, selling hopes and rye to Boston and supplementing that income with small shoe making shops. Early railroad expansion passed the town by, limiting its early development, and Burlington continued to cure hams for the Boston market and produce milk, fruit and vegetables.

This picture changed drastically, however, as soon as Route 128 was built. The highway kicked off an enormous expansion, and between 1955 and 1965 Burlington was the fastest growing town in the state. In one five year period, its population tripled as residential and commercial retail development exploded creating the town's present character.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Bedford on the west, Billerica on the northwest, Wilmington on the northeast, Woburn on the southeast and south, and Lexington on the south. Burlington is 12 miles south of Lowell, 13 miles northwest of Boston, 36 miles southeast of Fitchburg, and 224 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 11.88 sq. miles

Land Area: 11.81 sq. miles

Population: 23,302

Density: 1,973 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Wilmington, Lexington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 270-1600

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1799

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	13,702		
Democrats	5,146	37.6	%
Republicans	1,756	12.8	%
Other parties	2	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,798	49.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Burlington town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	22,876	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	22,876	100.0
Male.....	11,265	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	296	1.3
Female.....	11,611	50.8	Mexican.....	40	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,575	6.9	Puerto Rican.....	65	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	1,491	6.5	Cuban.....	22	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,512	6.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	169	0.7
15 to 19 years.....	1,226	5.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	22,580	98.7
20 to 24 years.....	1,035	4.5	White alone.....	19,626	85.8
25 to 34 years.....	3,218	14.1	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	3,886	17.0	Total population.....	22,876	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,205	14.0	In households.....	22,839	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	1,353	5.9	Householder.....	8,289	36.2
60 to 64 years.....	1,201	5.3	Spouse.....	5,407	23.6
65 to 74 years.....	2,103	9.2	Child.....	7,361	32.2
75 to 84 years.....	838	3.7	Own child under 18 years.....	5,047	22.1
85 years and over.....	233	1.0	Other relatives.....	1,135	5.0
Median age (years).....	38.3	(X)	Under 18 years.....	295	1.3
18 years and over.....	17,483	76.4	Nonrelatives.....	647	2.8
Male.....	8,459	37.0	Unmarried partner.....	216	0.9
Female.....	9,024	39.4	In group quarters.....	37	0.2
21 years and over.....	16,887	73.8	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	3,906	17.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	37	0.2
65 years and over.....	3,174	13.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,401	6.1	Total households.....	8,289	100.0
Female.....	1,773	7.8	Family households (families).....	6,371	76.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,705	32.6
One race.....	22,679	99.1	Married-couple family.....	5,407	65.2
White.....	19,836	86.7	With own children under 18 years.....	2,349	28.3
Black or African American.....	312	1.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	757	9.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	16	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	299	3.6
Asian.....	2,436	10.6	Nonfamily households.....	1,918	23.1
Asian Indian.....	1,570	6.9	Householder living alone.....	1,587	19.1
Chinese.....	529	2.3	Householder 65 years and over.....	642	7.7
Filipino.....	22	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,890	34.9
Japanese.....	68	0.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,286	27.6
Korean.....	56	0.2	Average household size.....	2.76	(X)
Vietnamese.....	65	0.3	Average family size.....	3.18	(X)
Other Asian ¹	126	0.6	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	-	Total housing units.....	8,445	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	8,289	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	1	-	Vacant housing units.....	156	1.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	4	-	occasional use.....	50	0.6
Some other race.....	74	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	197	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	8,289	100.0
White.....	19,982	87.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	6,589	79.5
Black or African American.....	364	1.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,700	20.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	60	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.93	(X)
Asian.....	2,511	11.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.10	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	11	-			
Some other race.....	153	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 107

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 19

Federal (Section 8): 92



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Burlington is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 3 and State Routes 3A, 62, and 128.

Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is readily available from the Mishawum Station in Woburn (travel time: 24-26 min.; 195 MBTA parking spaces) and from Wilmington (travel time: 28-32 min.; 6 parking spaces). Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

Burlington is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). There is fixed route service to Boston, via I-93 & to Alewife Station on the Red Line, and to other points. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford is a Reliever Airport with commercial service (CR), with a 5,106' asphalt and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches: Precision and non-precision. Hanscom Field is an alternate airport to Boston's Logan International Airport. M and L Transportation provides scheduled service between Burlington and Logan Airport.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Burlington Public Museum

Corner of Bedford and Cambridge Streets

(781) 272-0606

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Mary And Arthur Clapham Hospital

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.